

Sustainable Southampton Committee

February 16, 2010

Committee Members in Attendance: Tip Brolin (Chair), John Barrows, Bob DeLuca, Dorothy Reilly, Ann Reisman, Ric Stott, Anna Throne-Holst, Paul Rogers

Committee Members Not in Attendance: Scott Carlin, Nancy Graboski, Sheryl Heather, Tony Panza, Janice Scherer, Deter Von Lehsten

Also in Attendance: Kate Schertel (Group for the East End), Jennifer Garvey (Executive Confidential Assistant to the Supervisor), Tom Neely, Kristen Tuffy (Chris Nuzzi's office)

Approval of Minutes: Tip Brolin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the committee. Bob DeLuca made a motion, Dorothy Reilly seconded the motion and the minutes of the February 2nd, 2010 meeting of the committee were unanimously approved.

Plan for a Plan Discussion: Tip Brolin noted that a sustainability plan would guide the committee and its future actions so should be broad in its approach to sustainability. Ann Reisman has prepared the preliminary materials for a plan scope. Ann reported that the plan would enable the town to see how the committee's actions fit into a wider world-view. Also notable is that the plan would be a living, developing document that could change over time according to circumstances.

To start, the Sustainability Coordinator will be hired in the coming weeks. An interdepartmental team will also be appointed to develop the plan based on the scope developed by the committee.

The first step of the committee to be addressed in developing the plan scope would be identifying the sustainability challenges Southampton Town faces. For example, Ann listed the following potential issues to include as challenges that would be addressed in the plan: Greenhouse gas reduction, Energy use reduction, Renewable energy development, Protection of natural resources, etc. The question is whether to focus solely on climate change and related issues, or to expand the reach to other related issues.

Dorothy Reilly commented that the plan should focus on all aspects of sustainability rather than only carbon emissions. For example, revised zoning and education are essential aspects of a sustainable community that may not relate directly to carbon, yet are still important. Dorothy suggested developing a broad vision of sustainability that the committee could break this up into smaller challenges.

Bob DeLuca agreed that community members expect the committee to encompass all aspects of sustainability and we should keep an open mind. He also noted that individual topics/challenges/issues can be broken up for committees and prioritized. Advisory committees appointed by the Town could also be utilized as experts relating to certain challenges. Each subcommittee would be tasked with a set of specific goals, and they would report progress to the full committee.

Tip commented that, if the scope remains broad, we might have to recruit additional committee members with expertise related to our chosen challenges. Paul Rogers asked that the Town Board give its approval for the approach the committee chooses, since the committee reports to the Town Board.

Anna Throne-Holst suggested that the committee decide on a list of several items the committee would like to focus on. This list will be presented for approval by the Town Board, so they would have an idea

of the direction the committee is going. Rather than list these items broadly, it would be helpful for the Town Board to have a more specific idea of how the committee will go about accomplishing its goals, what resources will be needed, and a timeline for results.

Ric Stott suggested developing a chart that would illustrate how each smaller strategy relates to the higher vision and agreed to create such a visual for the Town Board when all the information is available. Bob DeLuca, Dorothy Reilly and Tom Neely also agreed to assist with developing a list of challenges and prioritizing them for approval by the Town Board. A schedule for accomplishing this task will be reported to the full committee by February 26th. Anna suggested using a volunteer consultant to assist with the process and agreed to follow up.

Town Interns: Ann Reisman reported that she and Jennifer Garvey met with students at Stony Brook Southampton regarding internships with the Town. Candidates were identified for the municipal vehicle inventory and the education/outreach position.

ICLEI Teleconference: Tom Neely reported that he listened in on an ICLEI teleconference, which covered land use and transportation with regard to climate change goals. He noted that the discussion also talked about the challenges associated with achieving climate change goals through these avenues. One interesting element of the conversation was the connection in some communities between the purchase of open space and other strategic goals. For the committee's review, Tom agreed to distribute a list of web sites with information related to this subject, along with a grant opportunity for the Town.

Commercial Building Code: Tip noted the meeting with the Town Board concerning the Commercial Energy Code went well last week. The next meeting to discuss this issue with public comment is scheduled for February 23rd at 6:00 p.m., and at this point the Town Board would have the option to adopt the legislation. Paul Rogers asked John Barrows to identify and explain the additional cost associated with building a commercial building to Energy Star standards.

Ric Stott, John Barrows and Paul Rogers agreed to develop a few visual explanations of how the Energy Star building code can help reduce the cost of operating a building (heating, lighting, etc.) to pay back the additional cost of construction. This would serve to address the concerns of the Town Board as well as the general public.

Wind Energy Code: Tip reported that he and several others met to discuss the wind energy code and how it might be improved to address specific issues in Southampton Town. He will report back to the committee with the hope that the Town Board will adopt legislation this August.

Town Web Site: Kate Schertel reported that she and Dorothy Reilly met to discuss potential improvements to the town web site. Their comments will be passed along to Tara Coady for consideration.

Residential Energy Efficiency Program: Work on this program will not start until either we hire a Sustainability Coordinator or DOE awards the LI Consortium, of which Southampton is a part, the residential energy efficiency competitive grant for which we have applied. DOE is still considering the grant application. No date has been established for the award announcement.

As there was no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.